

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method for storing plant process signals for a plant having at least two operating states comprising:

determining the current operating state of the plant;

applying at least one of a plurality of corresponding compression ~~method-methods~~ for responsive to the current operating state to a set of process signals, wherein said applying the at least one of the plurality of compression ~~method-methods~~ comprises;

acquiring process signals at definable time intervals;

storing the process signals first in a header buffer at an instant other the instant corresponding to the current operating state;

examining the stored process signals to ascertain whether a process signal has remained within an amplitude band since it was last stored and how long ago it was last stored, wherein the examining step involves selecting the size of the amplitude to correspond to the current operating state of the plant;

determining the at least one of the plurality of compression methods to apply based on a result from examining the process signals to minimize a loss of data significant for the process signal; and

storing the process signal as a part of a compressed signal set if it was last stored longer ago than a predefined time interval.

9. (currently amended) A method for storing plant process signals according to Claim 8, the compression method further comprising:

acquiring process signals at definable time intervals;

storing the process signals first in a header buffer at an instant other the instant corresponding to the current operating state;

examining the process signals to ascertain whether a process signal has left a further amplitude band since it was last stored and how long ago it was last stored, wherein the examining step involves selecting the size of the further amplitude band to correspond to the current operating state of the plant;

determining the at least one of the plurality of compression methods to apply based on a result from examining the process signals to minimize a loss of data significant for the process signal; and

storing the process signal as a part of a compressed signal set matched to the current operating state only after it has left the further amplitude band.

10. (previously presented) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the acquiring step further comprises acquiring the process signals simultaneously so that the set of process signals corresponds to a particular instant.

11. (currently amended) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed Claim 8, further comprising after the step of storing the set of compressed signals, determining that the operating state of the plant has changed to a second state, and applying a the second compression method corresponding to the second operating state to a set of process signals, wherein the second compression method examines the process signals in accordance with an amplitude band corresponding to the second operating state of the plant.

12. (previously presented) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, the acquiring step further comprising selecting time intervals for acquiring process signals according to the current operating state of the plant, and acquiring process signals at definable time intervals.

13. (currently amended) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, applying at least one of the plurality of the corresponding the compression method methods step further comprises after the step of acquiring process signals at definable time intervals, storing process signals whose current values are in the region of a zero point with the value zero.

14. (currently amended) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, wherein at least one of the plurality of the corresponding the compression method methods further comprises monitoring the process signals for violation of a limit value.

15. (currently amended) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, wherein in the step of applying at least one of the plurality of a the corresponding compression method methods for the current operating state to a set of process signals, the applying step further comprises applying a compression method with a high compression rate for a plant operating state in which the process signals to be stored have minimal change.

16. (currently amended) The method for storing plant process signals as claimed in Claim 8, wherein in the step of applying at least one of the plurality of a the corresponding compression method methods for the current operating state to a set of process signals, the applying step further comprises applying a compression method with a low compression rate for a plant operating state in which the process signals to be stored have marked change.

17. (currently amended) A method for storing plant process signals for a plant as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the plant comprises a turbine plant having at least two operating states, a start-up phase with markedly changing process signals and a normal operating mode following the start-up phase during which the process signals have less-marked change and more constant signals than in the start-up phase, wherein the step of determining the current operating state of the plant determines the start-up operating state; and wherein in the step of applying at least one of the plurality of a the corresponding compression ~~method~~ methods for the current operating state to a set of process signals, the applying step further comprises applying a compression method with a low compression rate for start-up phase.

18. (currently amended) A method for storing plant process signals for a plant as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the plant comprises a turbine plant having at least two operating states, a start-up phase with generally markedly changing process signals and a normal operating mode following the start-up phase during which the process signals have less marked change and more constant signals than in the start-up phase, wherein the step of determining the current operating state of the plant step determines the normal operating state; and wherein in the step of applying at least one of the plurality of a the corresponding compression ~~method~~ methods for the current operating state normal operation to a set of process signals, the applying step further comprises applying a compression method with a high compression rate for normal operation phase.